

# Mayor's Report on Opiate Challenge

City Council Meeting, January 11 2016

## BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



# Overview of Opiate Report

- ⦿ Charged by Mayor on First Day to Report on Opiate Situation in Burlington
- ⦿ Charged by City Council Resolution to address drug trafficking issues (September 8)
- ⦿ Report Examines Opiate and Opiate-Related Crime Citywide, by neighborhood, and through Case Study
- ⦿ Concludes Increase in Opiate Related Activity, including Sex Trafficking and Gun Trafficking
- ⦿ Proposes New Law Enforcement and Public Health Strategies to Address

# Heroin and Drug Trafficking

- ◎ Addiction and related crimes fuel the drug trade and support larger criminal enterprises
- ◎ These enterprises extend well beyond the borders of Burlington and Vermont
- ◎ Local agencies conduct investigations presented to both State and Federal courts to combat these issues
- ◎ Treatment and incarceration are means to the same end: reducing the rate of use

# BTV Crime in 2015

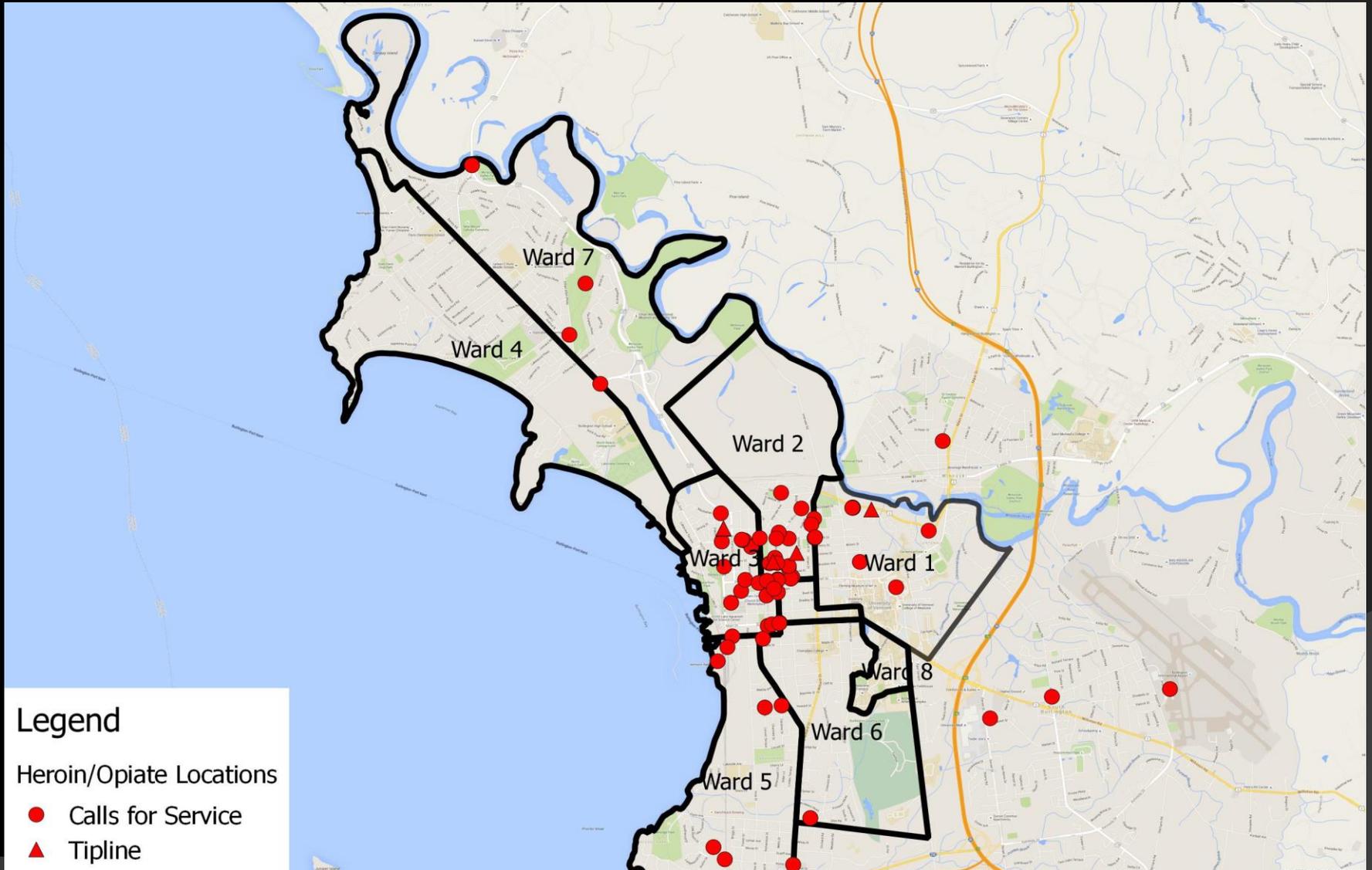
Annual Offense Counts			
	Average 2012–2014	2015	2015 to Three-Year Average Difference
<b>Homicide</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Rape	23	20	-3 (-13%)
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>9 (31%)</b>
<b>Assault - Felony</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>10 (22%)</b>
Domestic Assault - Felony	51	46	-5 (-10%)
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>-65 (-20%)*</b>
Grand Larceny	169	109	-60 (-36%)*
Stolen Vehicle	45	31	-14 (-31%)
Disorderly Conduct	287	300	13 (5%)
Domestic Assault - Misdemeanor	104	96	-8 (-8%)
Domestic Disturbance^	629	552	-77 (-12%)*
Intoxication^	1161	1219	58 (5%)
<b>Larceny from Building</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>34 (11%)</b>
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	390	242	-148 (-38%)*
Larceny from Person	31	29	-2 (-6%)
Larceny Other	292	277	-15 (-5%)
Mental Health Issue^	628	536	-92 (-15%)*
Noise^	1448	1100	-348 (-24%)*
<b>Overdose^</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>35 (103%)*</b>
<b>Retail Theft</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>44 (15%)</b>
Sexual Offenses	39	44	5 (13%)
Trespass	213	221	8 (4%)
Vandalism (Unlawful Mischief)	561	476	-85 (-15%)*

\*Statistically significant difference from three-year average  
 ^Based on calls for service, not offenses

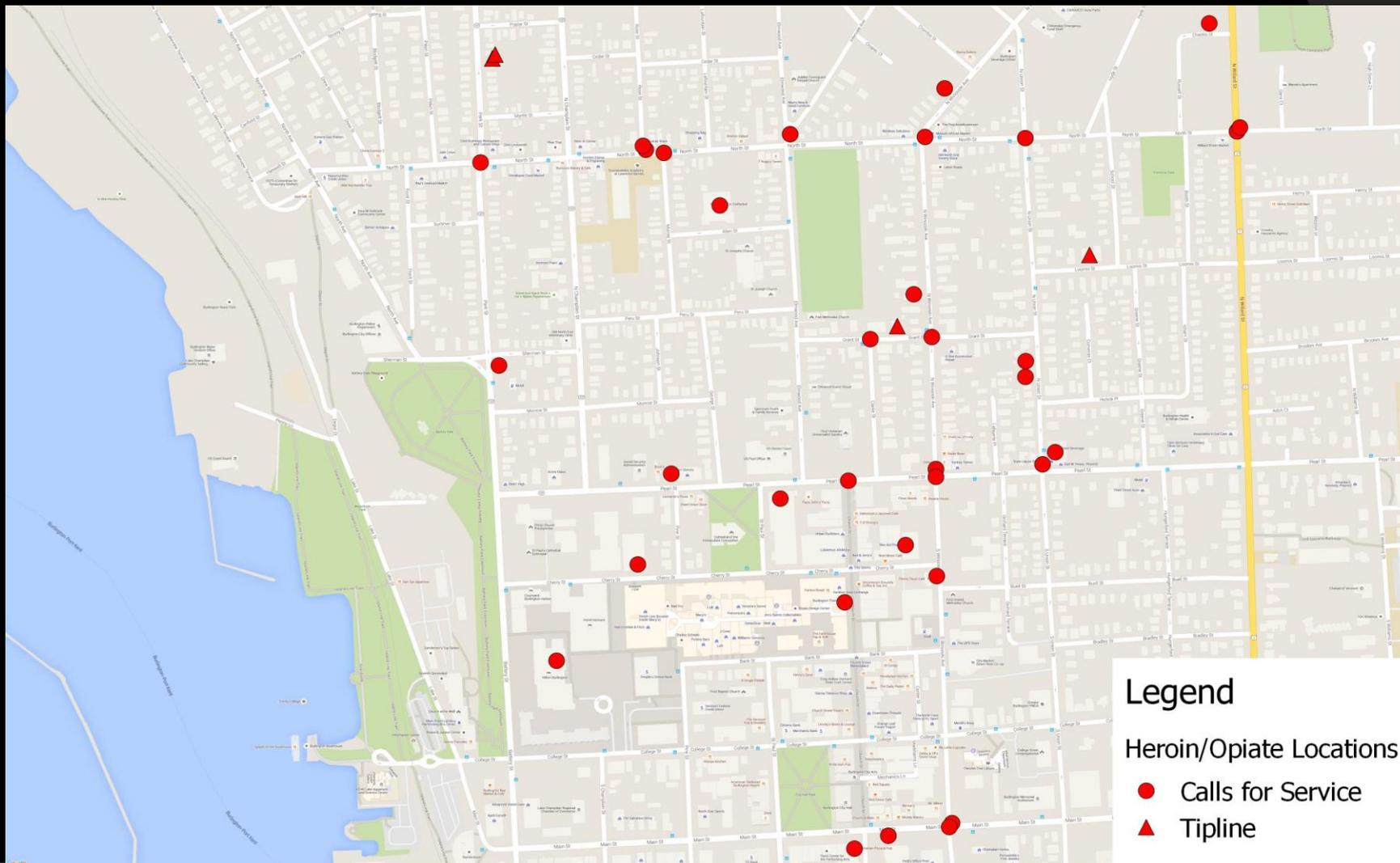
# Heroin calls by ward Jan – Oct 2015

	Calls for Service				Tipline	Combined
Ward	Drugs	Drugs Possession	Drugs Sale	Total	Total	Grand Total
3	72	30	13	115	17	132
2	34	20	7	61	36	97
6	16	2	1	19	17	36
1	18	12	2	32	4	36
5	17	2	1	20	7	27
7	11	4	0	15	3	18
8	8	2	0	10	2	12
4	7	3	0	10	2	12
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>370</b>

# Tipline / Service Calls - Heroin and Opiates 2015 Year to Date



# Tipline / Service Calls - Heroin & Opiates 2015 Year to Date - Downtown



# Tipline / Service Calls - Heroin and Opiates 2015 Year to Date - Old North End



# Tipline / Service Calls - Heroin and Opiates 2015 Year to Date - New North End

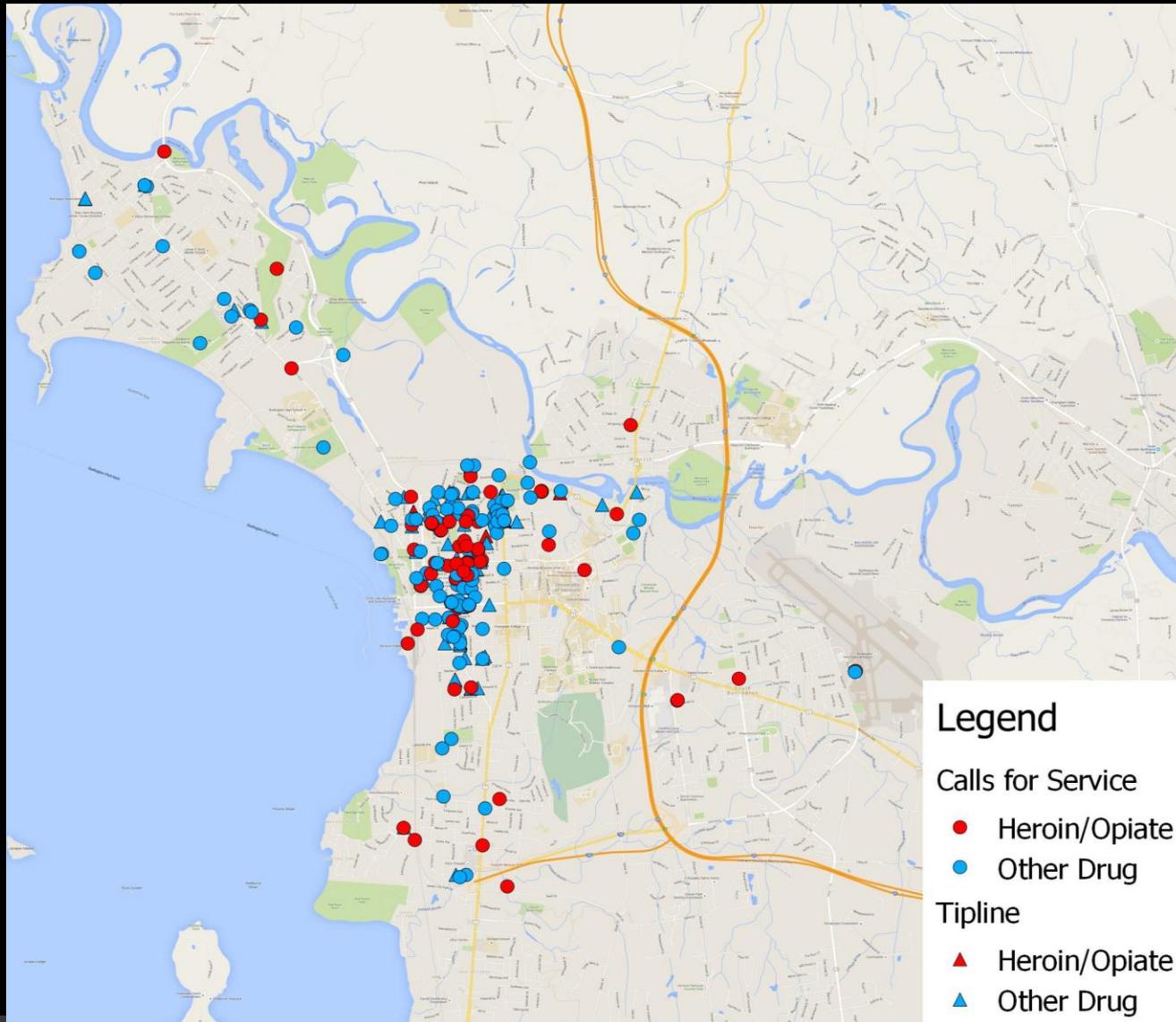


# Tipline / Service Calls - Heroin and Opiates 2015 Year to Date - South End

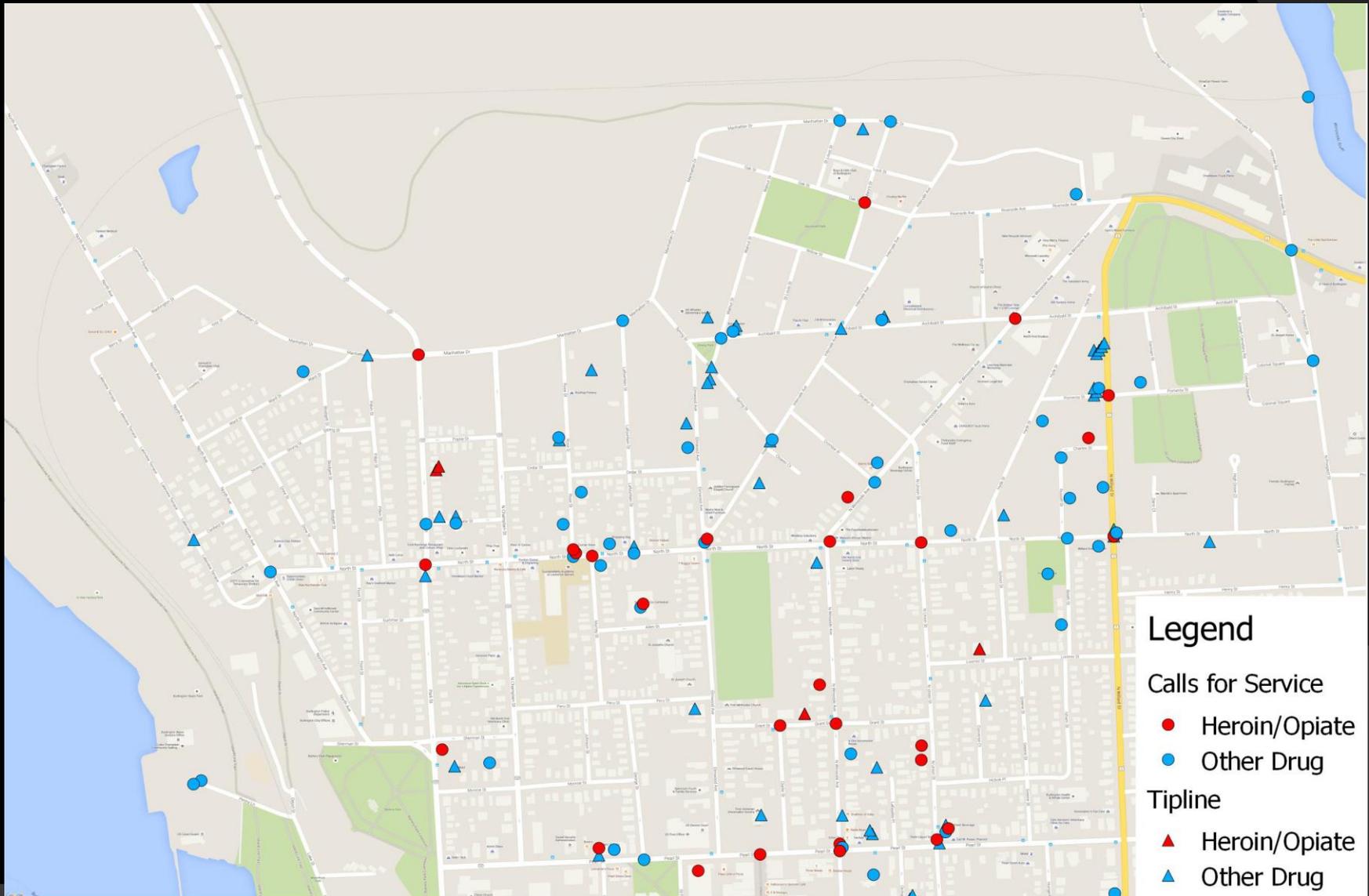


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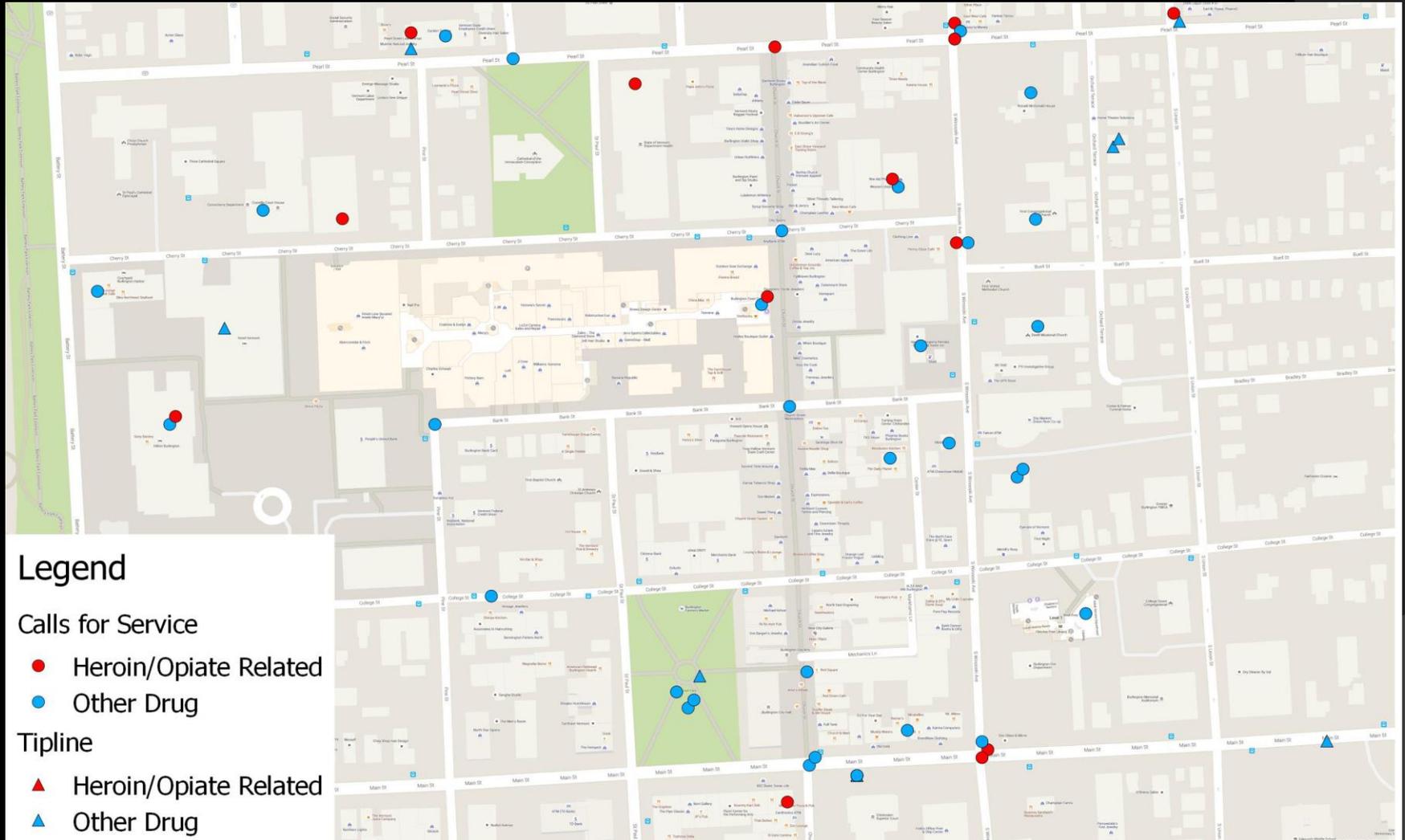
# Tipline / Service Calls - Heroin and Other Drugs 2015 Year to Date



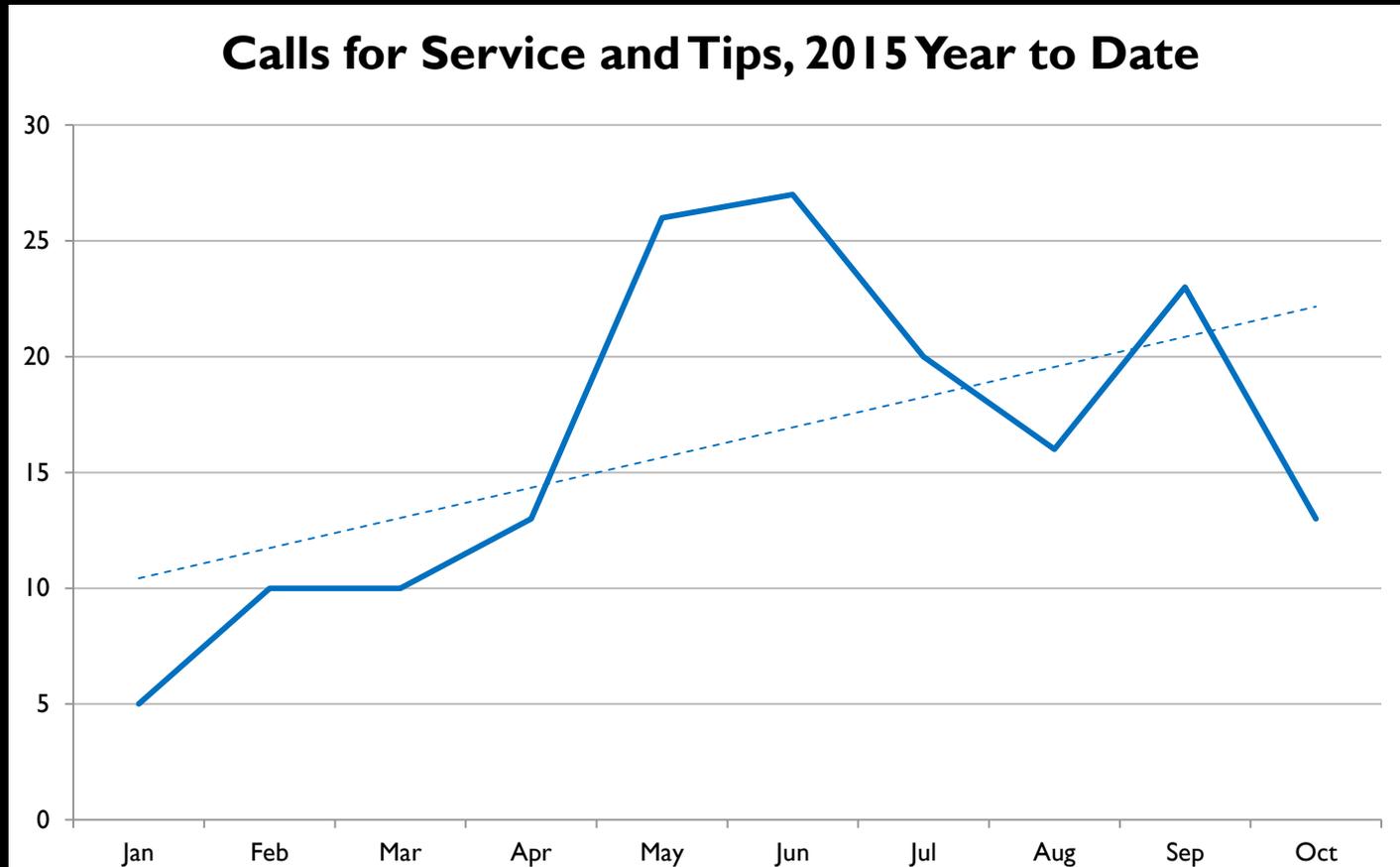
# Tipline / Service Calls - Heroin & Other Drugs 2015 Year to Date - Old North End



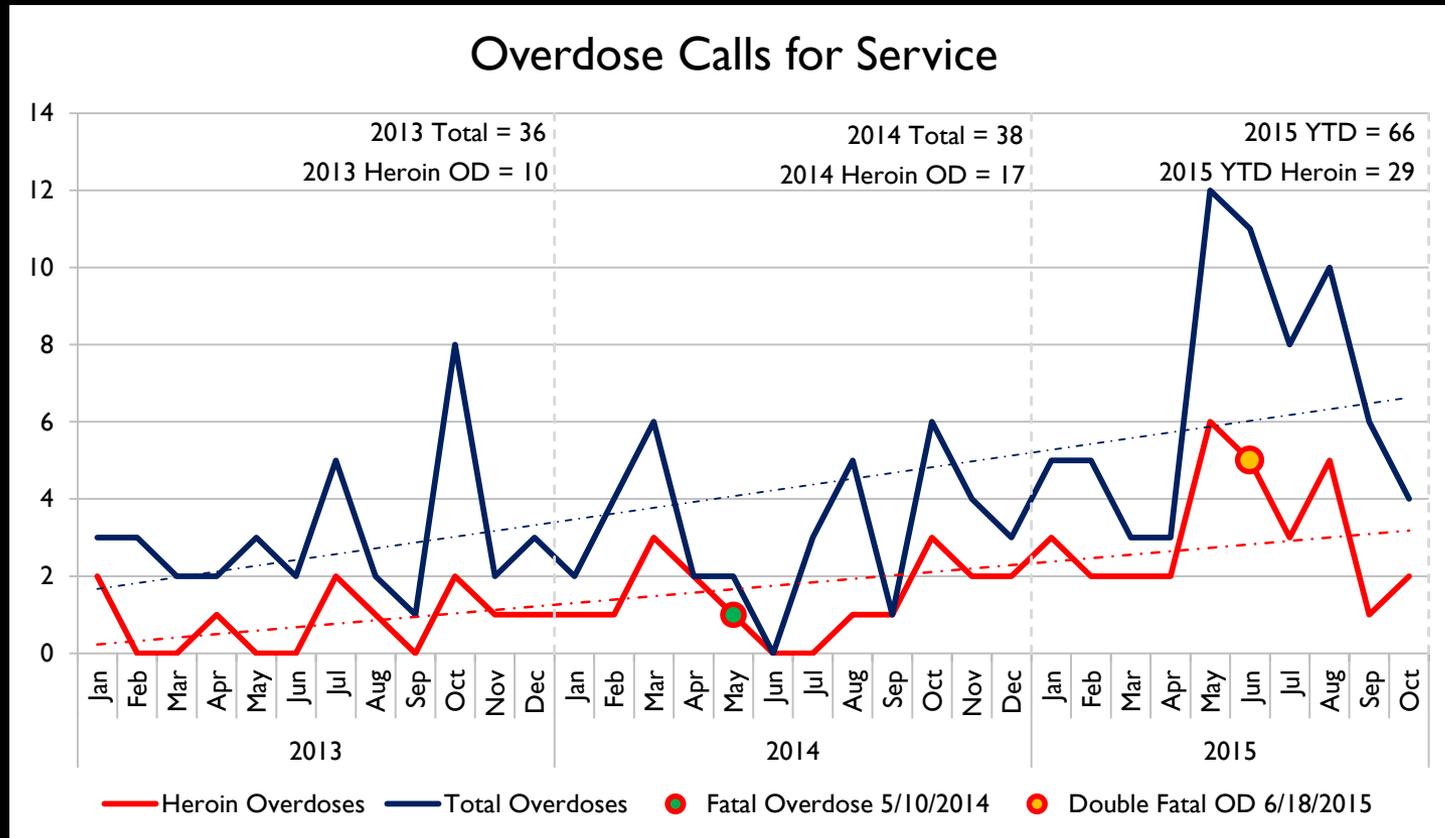
# Tipline / Service Calls - Heroin & Other Drugs 2015 Year to Date – Downtown



# Heroin Calls for Service and Tips

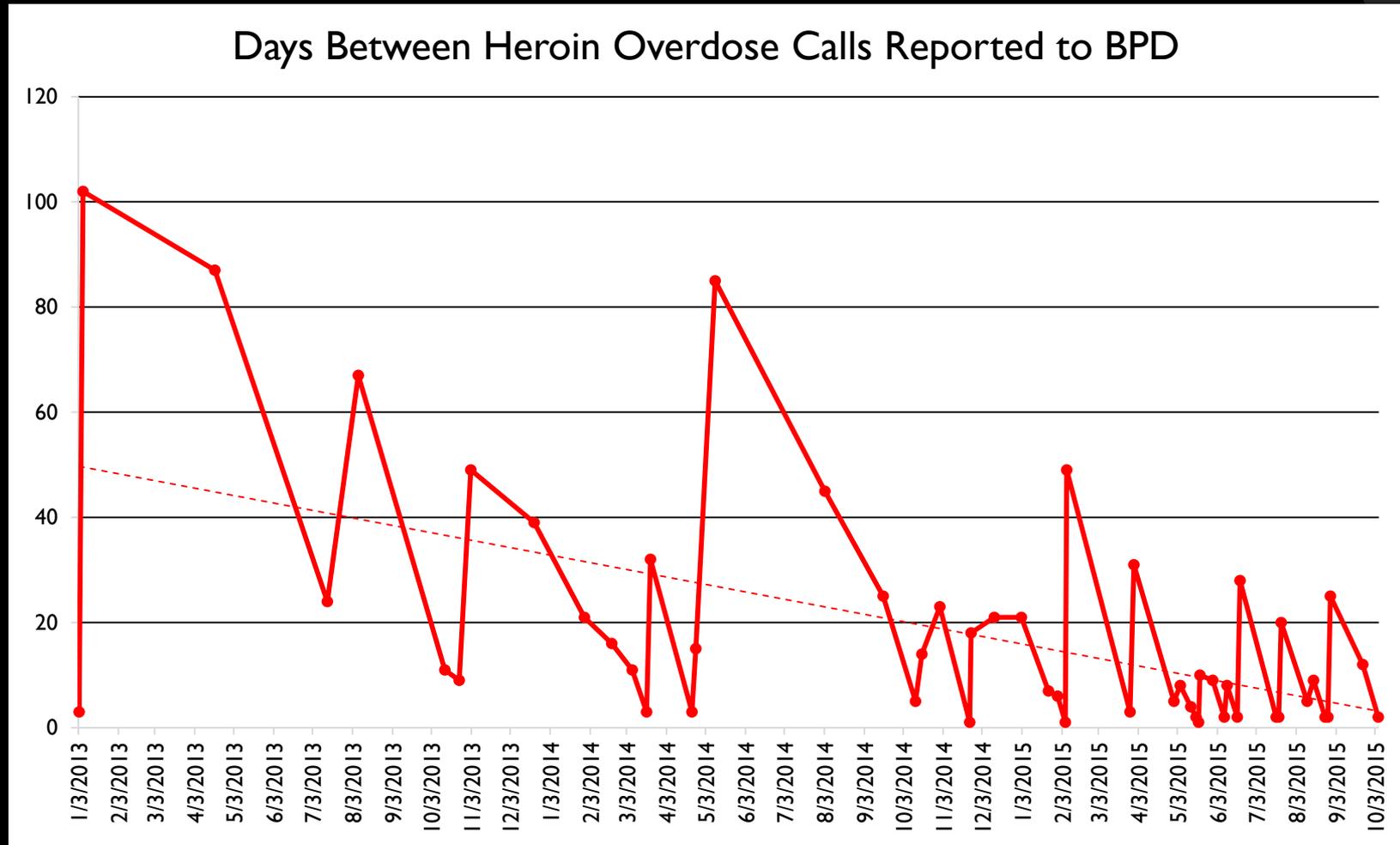


# Heroin Overdose Calls For Service\*

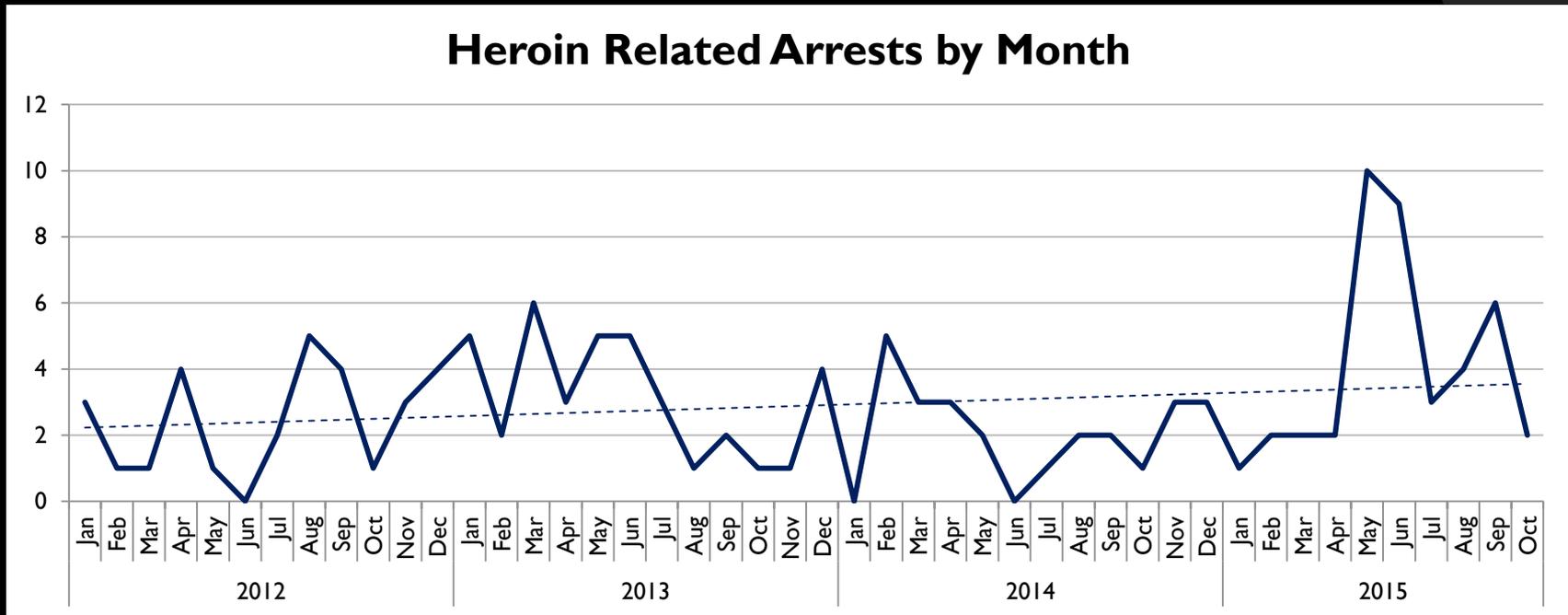


\*Reported to BPD

# Days Without Heroin Overdoses

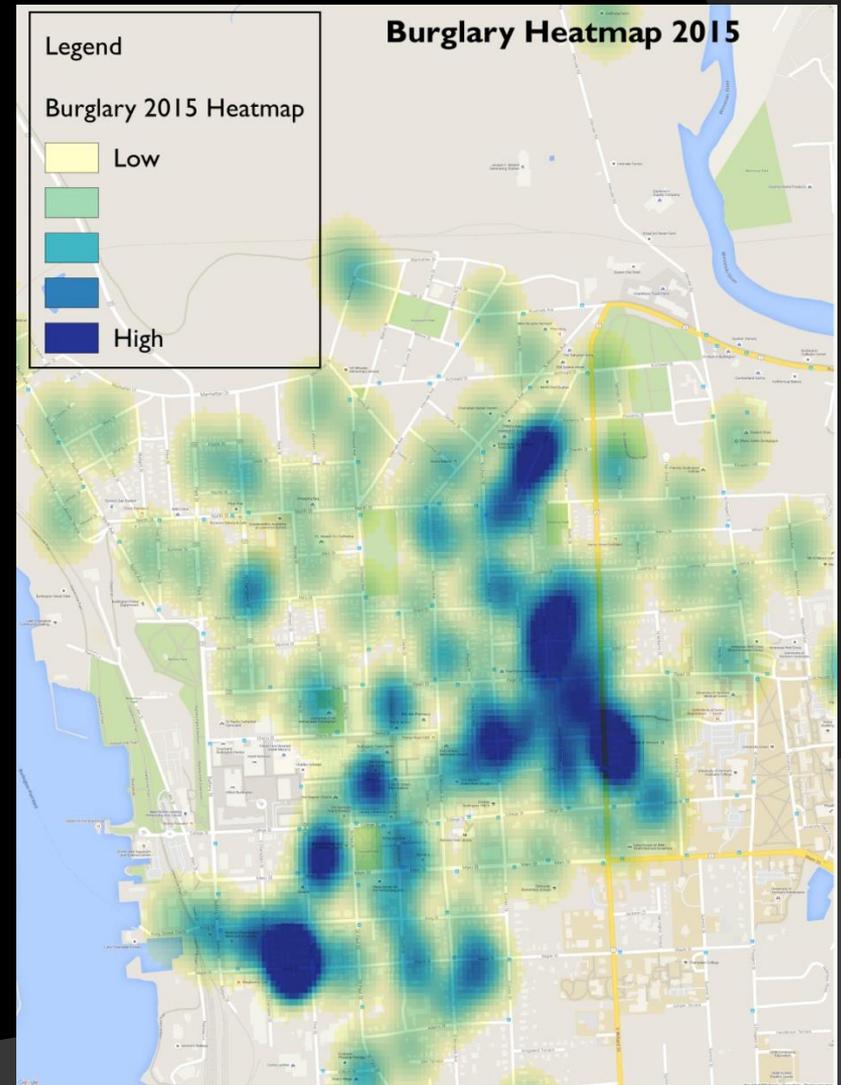
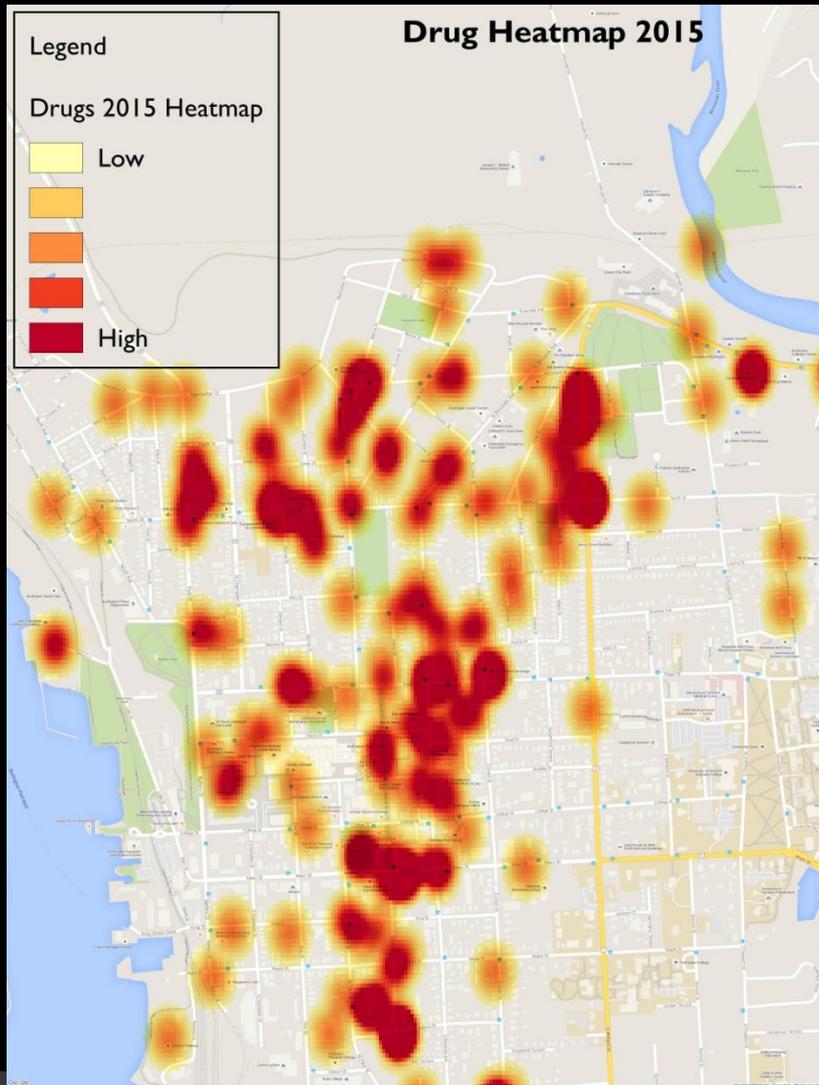


# Heroin Arrests by Month, 2012-2015

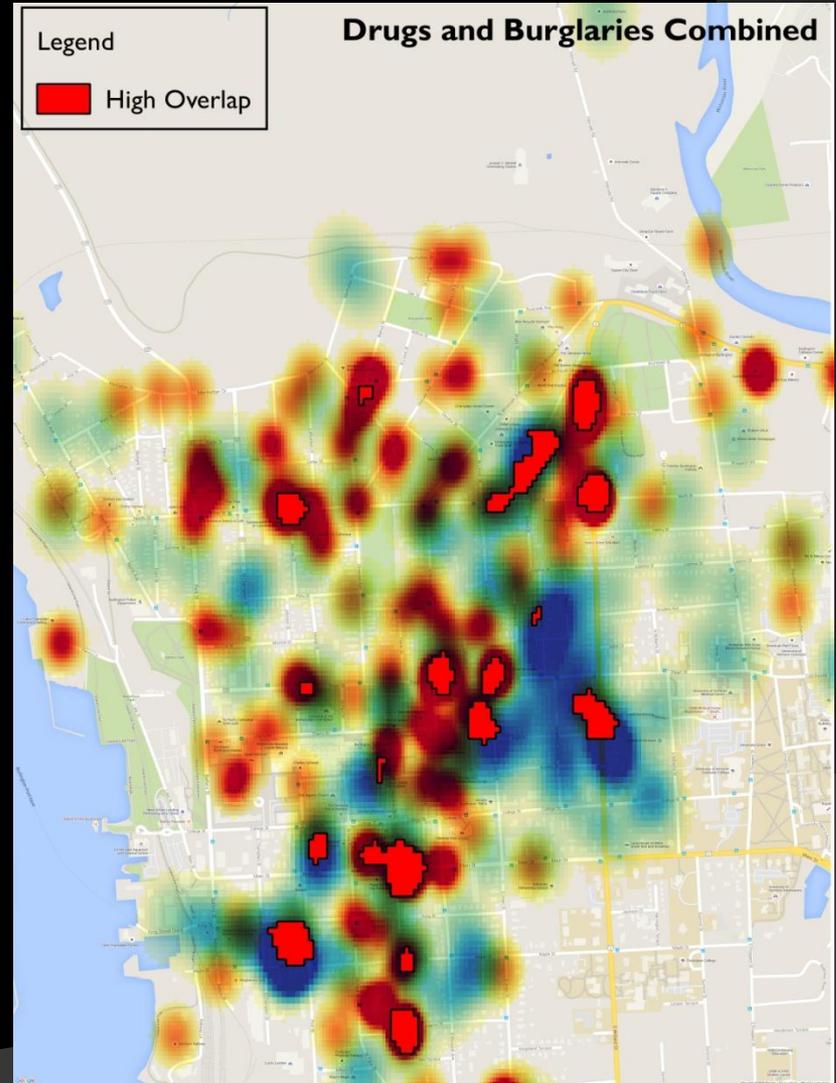
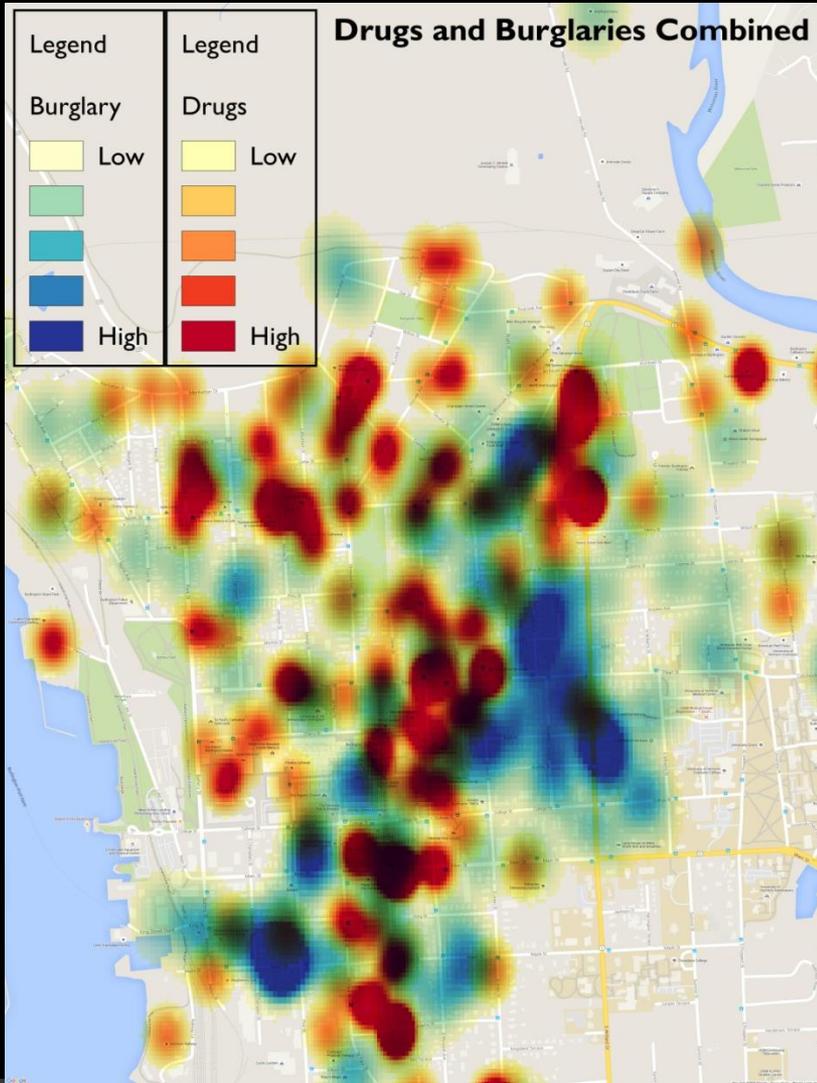


<i><b>Heroin Related Arrests Since 2012</b></i>	
<b>Arrest Charge</b>	<b>Count</b>
Drugs - Heroin, Possession (Misdemeanor) 18 VSA 4233(A)(1) 35A	52
Drugs - Heroin, Possession 200+ Milligrams 18 VSA 4233(A)(2) 35A	21
Drugs - Heroin, Sale 200+ Milligrams 18 VSA 4233(A)(2) 35A	15
Drugs - Heroin, Sale Felony 18 VSA 4233(A)(1) 35A	13
Drugs - Heroin, Possession 1+ Grams 18 VSA 4233(A)(3) 35A	13
Drugs - Heroin, Trafficking 18 VSA 4233(C) 35A	10
Drugs - Heroin, Possession 2+ Grams 18 VSA 4233(A)(4) 35A	8
Drugs - Heroin, Sale 1 + Grams 18 VSA 4233(A)(3) 35A	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>

# Drugs and Burglaries



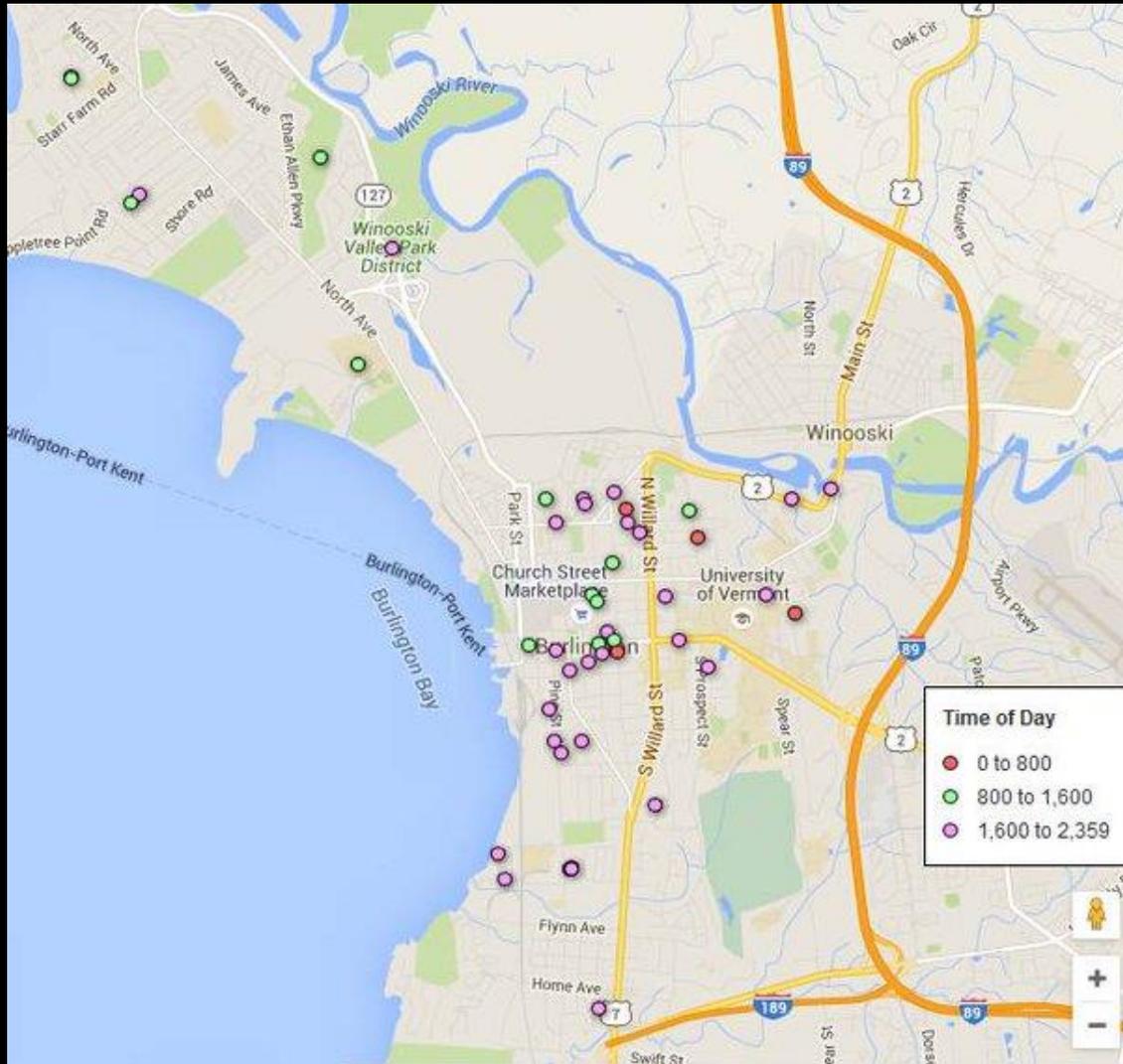
# Drugs and Burglary Combined



# Drug-Related Retail Theft

- ◎ Drug dealers organize some users to commit retail thefts; others freelance.
- ◎ Several confidential informants from 2015 have confessed to stealing specific items and/or brands requested by dealers
- ◎ Once the user has stolen the requested item, they trade it to the dealer for drugs
- ◎ Clothes are specifically requested because they lack unique identifiers for tracing and help the dealer maintain their lifestyle

# Larcenies from Motor Vehicles

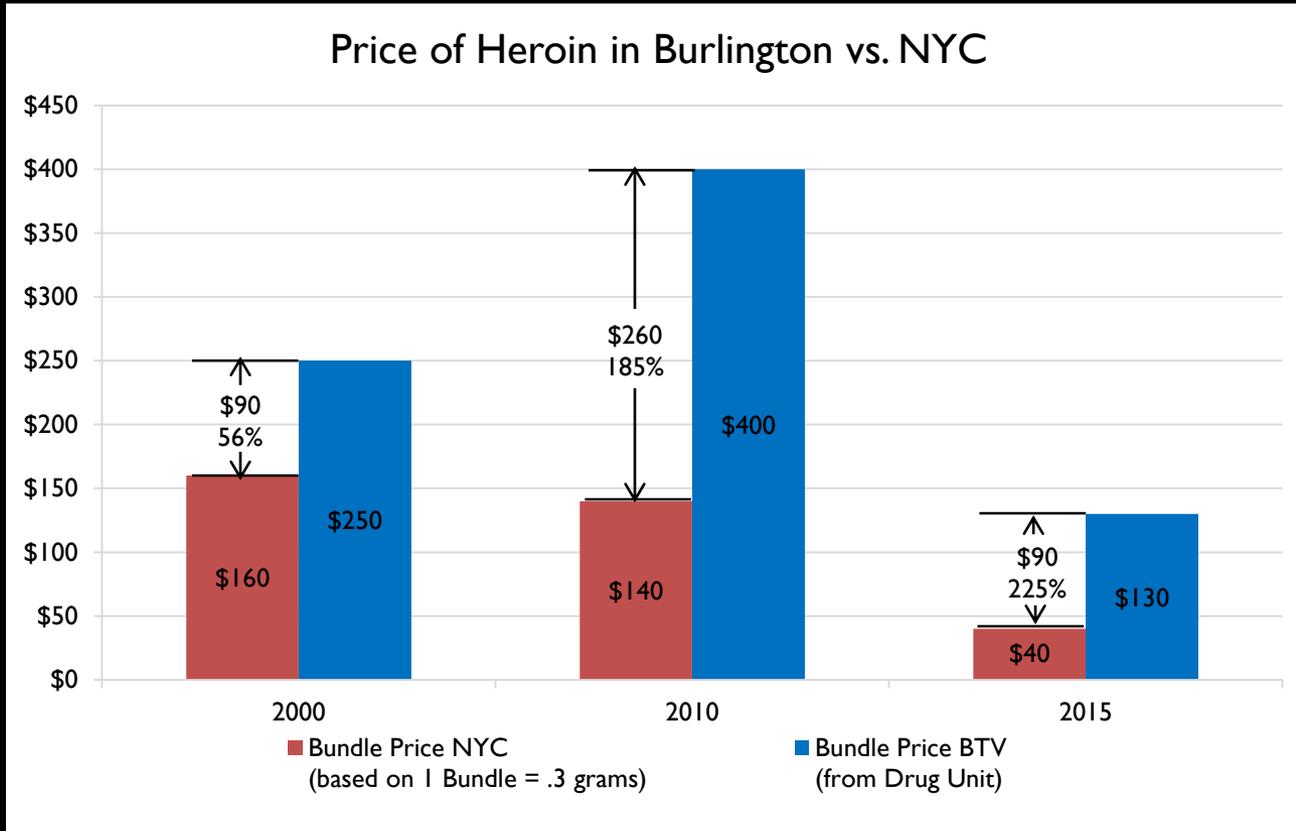


# Heroin Distribution / Packaging



- Packaged in paper folds or small Ziploc bags, often with logos or “stamps”
- Each contains approximately 30 milligrams of heroin
- Each is one dose, referred to as a “bag” or “ticket”
- Ten folds are a “bundle”
- Ten bundles are a “sleeve”
- Heroin is also sold unpackaged, in bulk, referred to as “raw” form in baggies or “fingers” stemming from the use of the fingers of latex gloves as packaging
- Addicts have reported using from one bag to 3+ bundles per day (\$25-\$400; typically \$50-\$100)

# Comparative Heroin Pricing



# National Price Trends

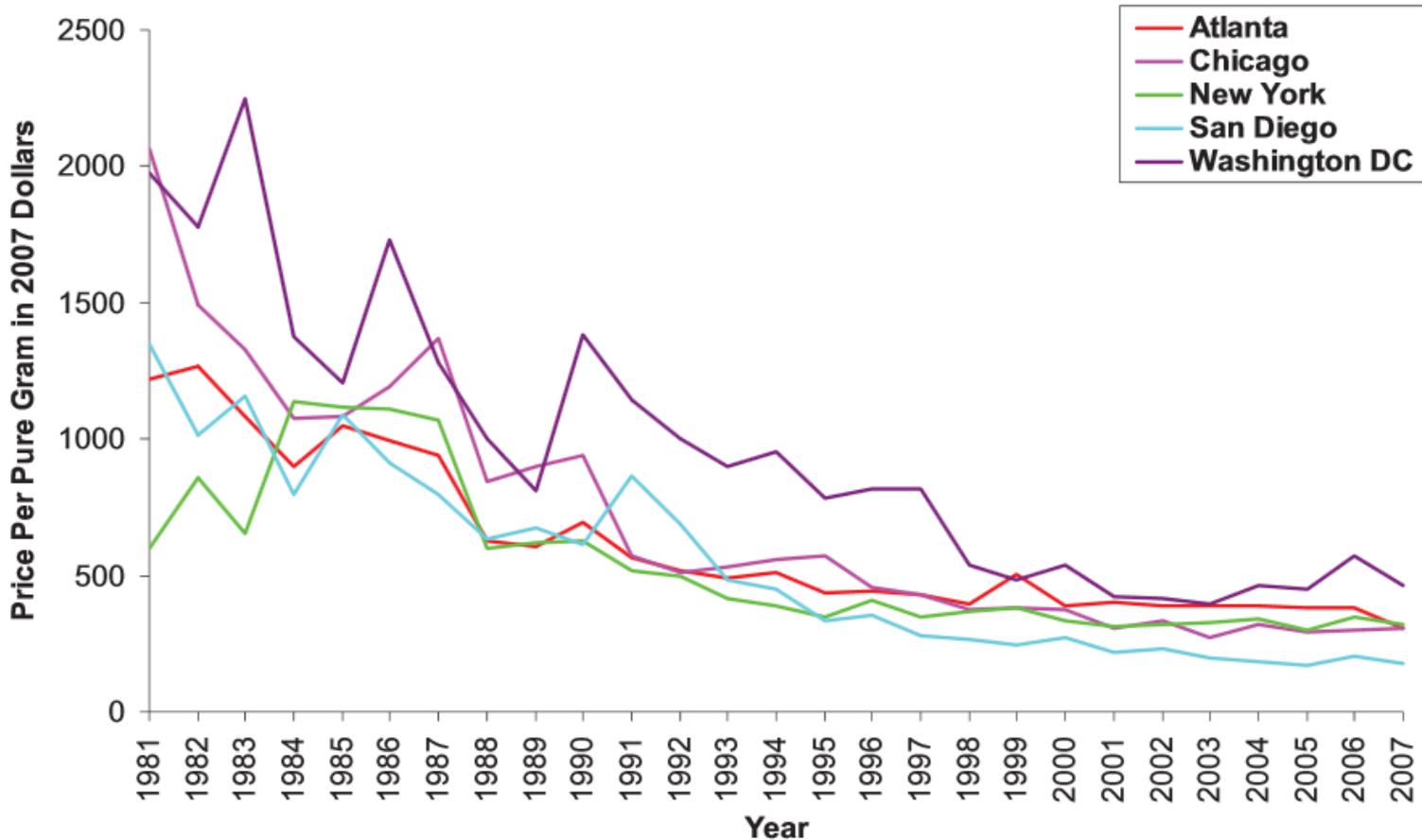


Figure IV-2. City Retail Price of Once Expected Pure Gram of Heroin (0.1 – 1.0 g, Evaluated at 0.4 g)

# National Indicators

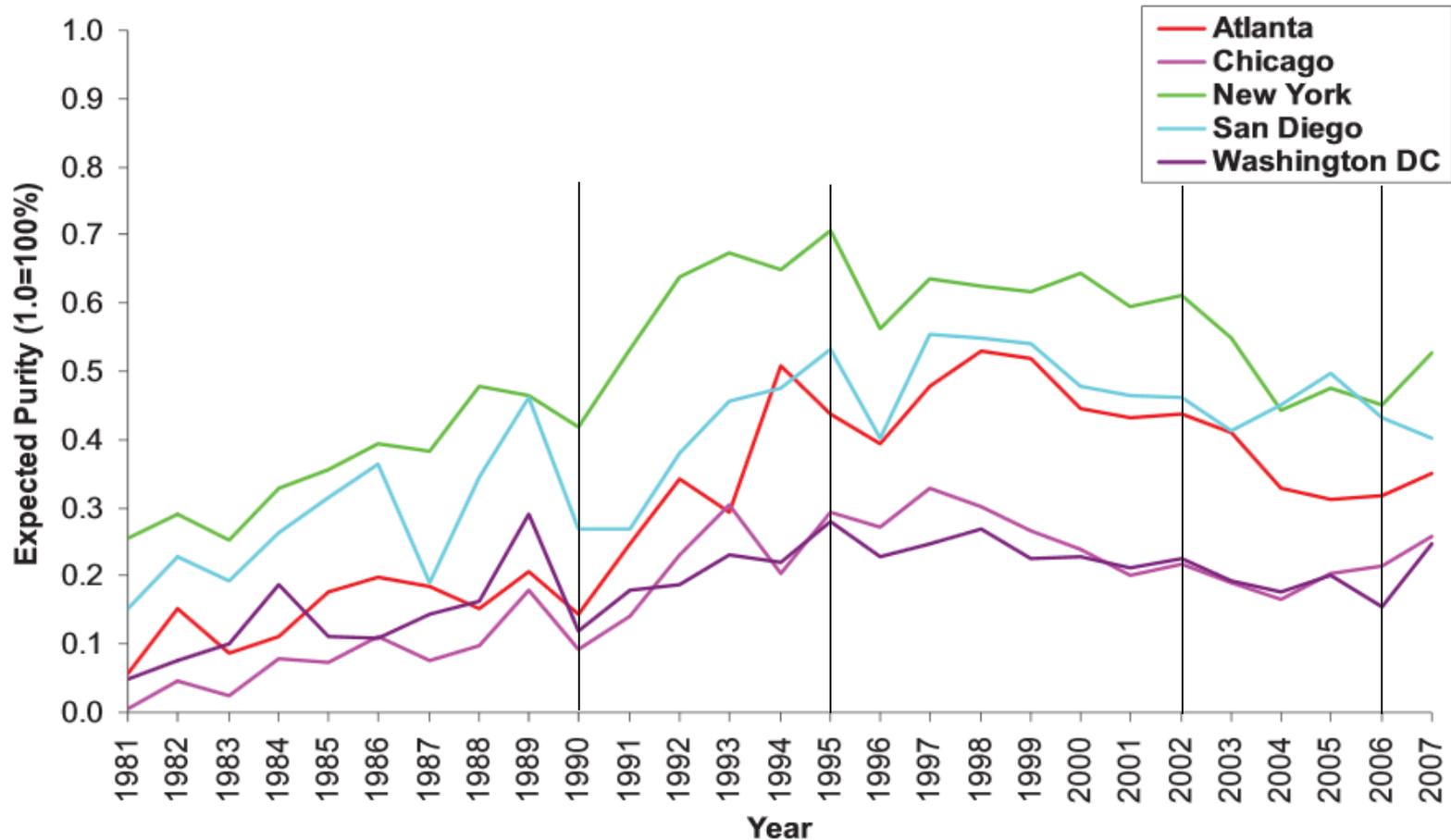


Figure IV-4. City Retail Expected Purity of Heroin (0.1 – 1.0 g, Evaluated at 0.4 g)

# Notable Repeat Arrests Heroin Related

- ◎ Justin – 3 Heroin Arrests
- ◎ Raelyn – 2 Heroin Arrests
- ◎ John N - 2 Heroin Arrests
- ◎ Paul B - 2 Heroin Arrests (Federal Custody)
- ◎ Eric C - 2 Heroin Arrests
- ◎ Robert R - 2 Heroin Arrests
- ◎ Julie H - 2 Heroin Arrests
- ◎ James Stauffer - 2 Heroin Arrests

# Notable Persons of Interest Heroin Related

- ◎ L.A.– Mid-level heroin dealer/facilitator
- ◎ Abby– Mid-level heroin dealer/facilitator
- ◎ Peggy– Facilitator (trips to NYC)
- ◎ Estelle– Houses drug dealers from out of state
- ◎ TJ– Mid-level heroin dealer/facilitator
- ◎ Sarah– Facilitator
- ◎ Eric– Mid-level heroin dealer/facilitator, trips to source cities

# Notable Arrestee

## Tony “TJ” Larock



- ⦿ Arrested 12x since January 2013 – 4 warrants, 2 DLS, 2 Retail Theft, 1 Violation of Conditions of Release, 1 Burglary, 1 Drug Possession, 1 Drug Sale.
- ⦿ Present at 2 Overdoses in 2015, 1 Overdose in 2013.
- ⦿ Person of Interest in 5 Burglaries, 2 Stolen Vehicles, 1 Robbery and various other thefts.
- ⦿ Seven separate pending sets of court cases involving 12 separate charges.
- ⦿ Arrested during a crack cocaine deal in October while on conditions of release for a multi-count Sale of Heroin case. Court referred him to Rapid Intervention.
- ⦿ Immediately following meeting with Rapid Intervention Larock was involved with an overdose on Clarke St. near the needle exchange.
- ⦿ Currently not incarcerated.

# Notable Arrestee

## Matthew King



- ⦿ Arrested for attempted armed robbery in February of 2015
- ⦿ Found to be connected to a drug trafficking group out of New York City; numerous reports of this group robbing other drug dealers to reduce competition
- ⦿ Released on pretrial conditions – currently pending one count of Burglary to an Occupied Dwelling (felony), one count of Robbery with a Weapon (felony) and one count of previously violating Conditions of Release (misdemeanor)

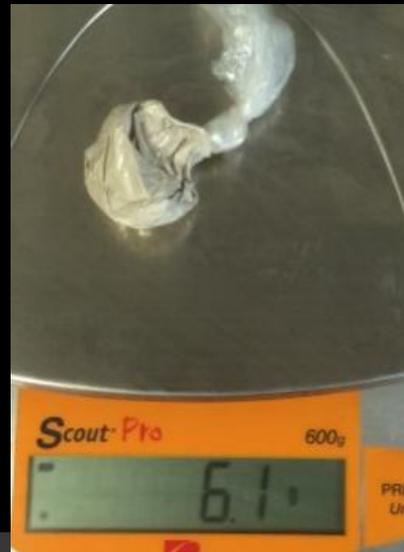
# 36 Hour Heroin Investigation

- Fast paced drug investigation involving a NYC area drug suspect
- Suspect was in Burlington for only 36 hours selling heroin and cocaine
- Sold \$7,000 worth of illicit drugs in that time period
- Significant cash as well as 90 remaining bags of heroin were seized



# Multistate Heroin Investigation 2014/2015

- 20+ people federally indicted from three states (VT / NY / ME) from one New York criminal gang (Crips)
- Approximately 1,000 bags of heroin seized, multiple firearms, and large quantities of raw heroin and suspected fentanyl



# VT-CT Heroin Trafficking - 2015

- Focused on a Connecticut suspect selling out of Burlington Hotels
- Revealed that guns purchased from VT firearms dealers were being traded for heroin in CT
- Significant seizure of heroin and cash was made



# NY-VT Heroin and Cocaine trafficking - 2015

- ⊙ Dealers were traveling to Brooklyn, NY to purchase heroin/crack.
- ⊙ Females were used to body-pack the drugs for delivery to VT.
- ⊙ Heroin being diluted and repackaged to increase profit
- ⊙ Arrested on return trip from Brooklyn, NY
- ⊙ 100 Bags of Heroin seized
- ⊙ 14.8 g of Cocaine seized
- ⊙ Prosecution is ongoing at this time



# Heroin Investigation June 2015

- Target(s) were from Brooklyn, NY
- Utilizing multiple locations in Burlington
- Search warrant was executed one block from One North Avenue.
- 124 bags of heroin, 15.9 grams of crack cocaine, and over \$7,000 in cash seized as a result of warrant execution.
- Prosecution is ongoing.



# Sex trafficking and heroin

- ⦿ As women barter with dealers, their rate of consumption increases to a point where dealers no longer want to support their heroin habit by barter alone
- ⦿ Some dealers deliberately attempt to addict women to injected heroin
- ⦿ Dealers will then encourage the women to also prostitute themselves using the dealers as pimps:
  - Most often rely on [backpage.com](http://backpage.com)
  - Profits go to the dealer

# Firearms trafficking and heroin

- ◎ A recent conference of New England chiefs of police revealed that the chiefs of coastal metropolitan areas have seen firearms trafficked from Vermont and New Hampshire used in robberies, shootings and homicides in their cities.
- ◎ The heroin trade provides a pipeline for these firearms as popularity spreads
- ◎ Straw buyers are a typical method
- ◎ More data collection is required

# Potential Regional Responses to Opiate Challenge

- ◎ “Common Nuisance” Ordinance\*
- ◎ North Street Substation\*
- ◎ BPD Staffing\*/Increased Foot Patrols
- ◎ Naloxone
- ◎ Gloucester Model/Reduce treatment waiting list
- ◎ Reduce over-prescription
- ◎ Expanded “--Stat” structure

# North Street Substation

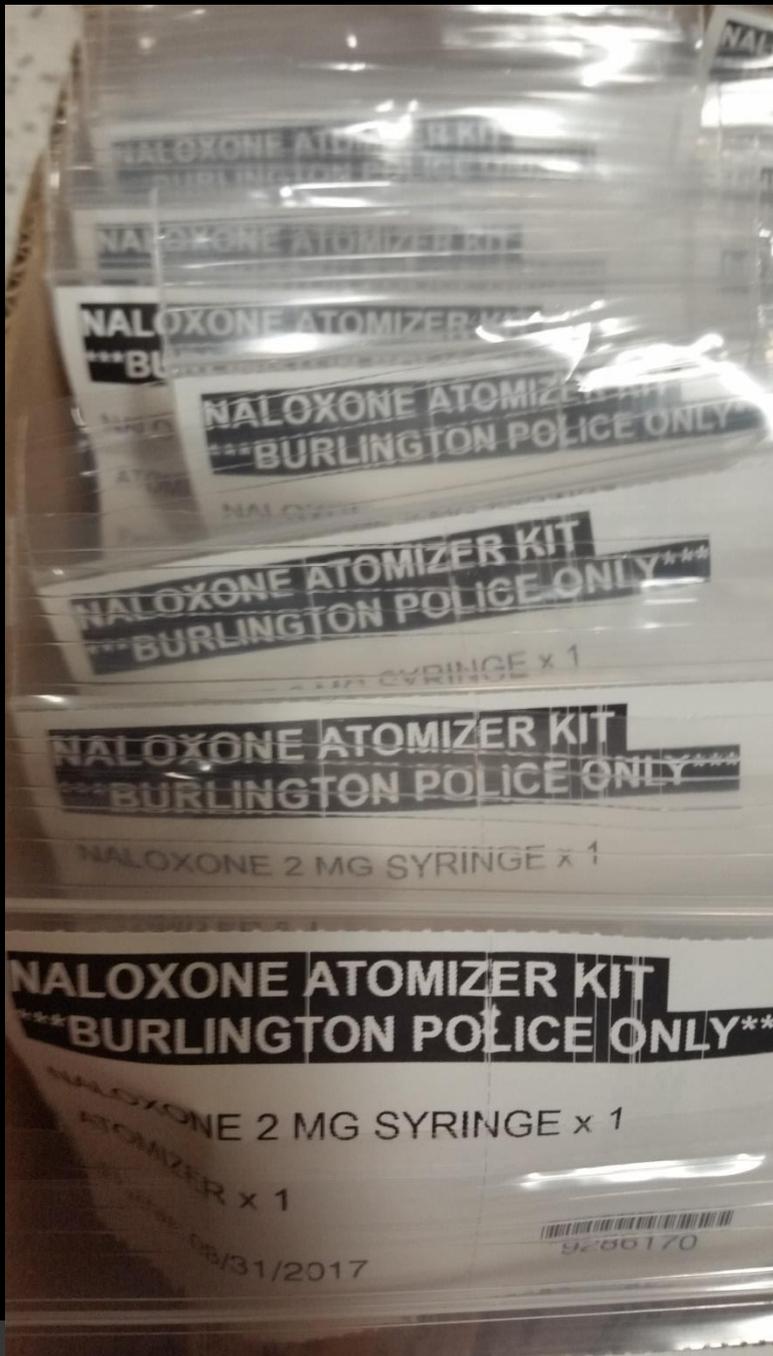
- ⦿ Increased police presence on North Street has disrupted the outdoor drug trade and increased quality of life in the Old North End
- ⦿ A substation would fix officers in one location without the benefit of mobility and community engagement
- ⦿ Continued foot patrol, adjusted for trends, is preferable to a substation
- ⦿ Bike patrol would add value when feasible; a program is in the development stage

# BPD headcount and staffing

- ◎ Foot patrol, problem-solving and continued 911 response are very officer-intensive practices
- ◎ The BPD should seek to stay as close to its authorized strength of 100 as possible
- ◎ No increase in headcount is sought
- ◎ The ability to over-hire in anticipation of attrition to continuously average 100-net officers would boost staffing

# The Gloucester Model

- ◎ Chief Campanello of the Gloucester PD has offered amnesty to opiate addicts who came to him seeking help.
- ◎ The BPD does not actively seek to arrest/incarcerate heroin users
- ◎ The treatment waiting list (approx. 250 names) is the principal obstacle to making this a meaningful policy in BTV
  - Hospital, Howard Center meeting with Mayor and making progress reducing waitlist



Naloxone  
saves lives.

The BPD  
carries it.

# Policing in the larger context

- ◎ The struggle against opiate addiction must be characterized as a *public health problem with a law enforcement component*, rather than the opposite.
- ◎ Law enforcement efforts must be part of a *larger epidemiological approach* that maximizes the effects of each part of the effort (e.g., medical community, charities, social workers, etc.)
- ◎ Consistent with Mayor's charge & City Council Resolution

# Dealers vs. Users

- ◎ Dealers: Build cases in collaboration with jurisdictions that aggressively prosecute higher-level dealers (e.g. NY Eastern and Southern Districts)
- ◎ Use foot patrol and one-day enforcement operations to disrupt outdoor markets
- ◎ Users: work to divert addicts to treatment with adequate wraparound services to prevent relapse
- ◎ The dividing line: the person motivated by profit vs. by addiction

# Broader BTV efforts

- ◎ Support state, local and UVMMC efforts to reduce over-prescription of opiates
  
- ◎ **REDUCE THE WAITING LIST**

# In order to maximize progress:

- ◎ Each addict and dealer must be considered both as an individual case and as part of a larger ecology / network
- ◎ Stakeholders must gather and share data and information to fully-inform individual cases and the ecology
- ◎ Stakeholders must engage with a coordinating authority that manages individual cases and the overall progress of the effort

# Expanded “--Stat” Model

- ◎ System for regularly sharing and coordinating information among involved stakeholders and establishing clear leadership / accountability would bring value to BTV
  - 1) Timely and accurate information and intelligence
  - 2) Effective tactics
  - 3) Rapid deployment of resources
  - 4) Relentless follow-up and assessment